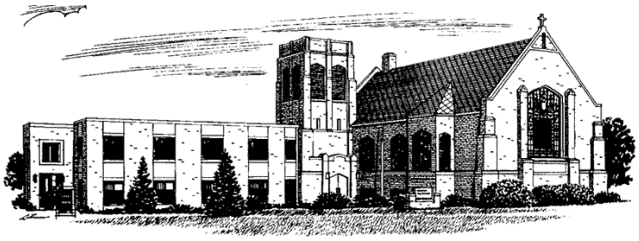

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

June 2019

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
Psalm 67:3

These are the lines from the psalm offered at worship on May 26. What a fitting expression in this Easter season when we shout "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" The word alleluia (hallelujah) means God be praised. Yes, God be praised! Christ is risen indeed! Let ALL the peoples praise you.

As we put together this newsletter, I am mindful of so many things for which we give God praise this season (and beyond.) My list includes musicians, teachers, hospitality workers, youth who affirm their faith, and the gift of newcomers to the community of faith through baptism. It extends to those who take care of our facilities and the grounds, and those who have a heart to reach out to our neighbors, far and near. It comprises those who give generously of their resources, those who pray heartily for Saron's ministry and those who provide assistance for those in need. The list goes on….u I give God thanks and praise for each of you!

Your list might vary from mine, yet together we can sing God's praises for this Easter life – a life filled with God's love, grace and forgiveness, for they are the hope of the resurrection. Alleluia! Let all the peoples praise you.

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Megan Savage Financial Secretary
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: Megan Savage
Call the office for more information.
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in June 2019

June 2 – Ann Dosch
3 - Steve Hall
4 – June Embree
5 – Judith Huff
Rebecca Schmidt
6 - Danielle Hohman
7 - Elinor Van Egmond
11 - Tyler Cook
12 - Deborah Vollmer
Cynthia Schmidt
Stephania Ngonyani
15 - Hunter Zwar
16 - Marilyn Frey
18 - Rebeccah Strine
James Peterson
19 - Ken Ark
20 - Cami Ashley
22 - Larry Weber
23 – Christopher Cox
24 – Marlene Schalon
24 - Elizabeth Lundgren
26 – Phillip Preston
27 – Bill Teal
29 – David Young
30 – Dena Nesbitt

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In June.

June 1 - Brian and Coanne Hohman
2 - Robert and Deanna Deaton (48)
14 –Gene and June Embree (67)
16 – David and Kathie Bradley
17 - Pastor Gary and Kathy Cowall (52)
Pastor Joan and Jim Oleson (41)
21 – Dan and Suzanne Fortenbacher
26 – Robert Gulley and Kirsten Talbert
28 - James and Gayle Peterson
30 - William and Janet Oleson (57)

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you

WITH JOY

With joy we welcome Sterling James Nadeau Johnson into the community of faith at Saron through Holy Baptism on May 5th, 2019. Sterling is the son of Alexander Christian Johnson and Racheal Anna Nadeau Johnson. His sponsors were: Connor Ashley and Rian Early.

Congratulations

Molly Becker and Grant Gacek were confirmed on May 12. Congratulations and God's blessings to both of you!

Congratulations
We wish God's blessings upon Brittany Damschroder and Tony Seidl who were married at Saron on May 4.

Graduates
Congratulations to two of our college graduates. We offered blessings to Connor Ashley upon his graduation from Wayne State University. Connor will serve a year with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services in Baltimore, MD.

Tim Standen graduated from the University of Michigan, and after walking a good portion of the Appalachian Trail will be moving to Madison, WI, to work for Epic Systems Corporation.

A blessing for Michael Hoodlebrink will take place in June.

With sympathy
We extend our sympathy to the family of Mignon Heppler, former member of Saron, upon her death. Her funeral was held on May 15.
God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1a

FORTIFY & fly

It's easier to see the vision of Fortify & Fly now that we can see through the windows! Several windows have now been replaced where moisture had seeped between the panels, making them cloudy. Workers have been busy in other areas of the church as well! The step risers on the staircase near the doors out to the courtyard have been painted and water damaged spots in the sanctuary and near those courtyard doors have been patched and sanded. The painting in those areas will be finished once we are absolutely sure the leaks have been fixed. Looking ahead, the technology committee has started doing an assessment of needs. There will be more on that in coming months.

As of the end of April, we had collected $140,302 towards our 3 year pledge total of $371,165. We are getting really close to our 2019 estimated collections of $154,005! It's wonderful to be receiving the pledged donations at this pace. We will do our best to keep projects flowing too, especially those that can take advantage of our beautiful spring weather just as we hope you are!

Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at *https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg* or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, June 2 –
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Sunday, June 9 –
Day of Pentecost
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday, June 16 –
The Holy Trinity
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 23 –
Second Sunday of Pentecost
Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 30 –
Third Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Nursery News

Providing a safe place for our youngest members takes volunteers willing to be in the nursery during service. We do have a nice group and we are so very thankful to them. Currently the rotation for late service is once every ten Sundays. Please consider joining us, we can and do work with a variety of availability schedules. Contact Marilyn Lucy with any questions or to add your name to the list.

BEACH WORSHIP

Once again we are offering an evening worship experience at Lions Park – in the pavilion closest to the water treatment plant. The dates are June 19, July 17, and August 14. Hot dogs provided; bring a dish to pass as you are able. Supper at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Youth

The middle school/high school youth group will be meeting Thursday, June 13, at 6 pm at the home of Kristen Harper. On July 25 the group will meet at the Gaspari's. Are you in grades 6-12? We hope you can join us. For more info, contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com or (Cell) 847-373-8825.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! VBS is scheduled at Saron for the evenings of August 5-8. Exciting things are being planned!

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Ephesus will meet on Sunday, June 2, at 5:30 pm at the home of Bob and Mary Kynast. If you've ever considered trying out this group, please let us know. We'd be happy to have you join us for a study and then an informal meal. Call Bob (921-2786) or Mary (921-3816) for details.

Beach Study

This summer we will join at Lions Park Beach for Bible study on Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Wear your jacket, bring a cup of coffee (if desired), and we will study the Scripture for the following Sunday and join in prayer. The conversation usually lasts 45 min to an hour.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and/or drink at Azul Tequila. If you have questions, feel free to call Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com. or Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com.
We are looking forward to seeing you all on the 23rd. Feel free to bring a friend.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

On Saturday, June 1st, 2019 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 a.m. We welcome new participants!

Thursday Morning Bible Study at work

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Here is the list of new reads for our 2019-2020 discussion season:

October 6, 2019 "Where the Crawdads Sing," by Delia Owens
November 3, 2019 "Before We Were Yours," by Lisa Wingate
December 1, 2019 "Once Upon a River," by Diane Setterfield
February 9, 2020 (2nd Sunday) "Killers of the Flower Moon", by David Grann
March 1, 2020 "The Story of Arthur Truluv," by Elizabeth Berg
April 5, 2020 "Year of Wonders; A Novel of the Plague," by Geraldine Brooks
May 3, 2020 "The Wife," by Meg Wolitzer

There are book marks with all this information available in the Narthex. Thanks to Marilyn Lucy for making them to share. Have a wonderful summer of good, relaxing reading. Our group will come together again in October. If you love to read, we would love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Dinosaurs did not read. Look what happened to them." (Unknown)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at church in the lounge. Sally Schmuhl will be the hostess and Colleen Lundgren will be the study leader.

Women's Retreat

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!
Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you are, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen is open 7 days a week, every day of the year. Hunger in our community is an ongoing concern. Thank you for supporting Saron in this outreach opportunity as a part of the ELCA's mission of God's Gifts, Our Hands!

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

BLOOD DRIVE

We had a disappointing turnout for our April blood drive. Another look was given to the number of people we can depend on to donate. There are several people who gave in the past who are no longer able to because of medication, health concerns, etc. We feel we don't have the numbers to support a drive on our own at this time so the June drive has been cancelled. We are grateful to all who helped us over the past several years by donating blood or providing hospitality. We may get a headcount at a later date in consideration of hosting another drive. For those of you that are able to donate, one place to go is St. Johns Lutheran, ELCA in Baroda at 9193 Cleveland Ave. Their next drive is June 11 from 2 – 7pm. We will try to post their dates in the narthex as a reminder. Also, the Versiti Blood Center at 2710 Cleveland Ave in St. Joseph (close to Kelley Bowl on other side of road) has increased its hours. They are open Wednesdays from 12 - 7pm, Saturdays & Sundays from 7am – 1pm. If you search "Michigan blood" online, you will find info on these and can sign up for a specific date and time. Maybe we could go together!

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

MAY'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA. This month we offer reminders of a couple of the ministries that we have highlighted earlier.

TINY HOUSES FOR BIG CHANGE

This project works in cooperation with Interfaith Action of SW Michigan. Saron will be collecting funds through June 9. Tiny Houses for Big Change, is an organization started at Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor. Its purpose is to help the homeless in southwest Michigan. We can help. Small "tiny house boxes" are available at Saron for you to start collecting your coins and dollars for this venture. You can also get more information and donate through https://www.gofundme.com/65ha1uo. Interfaith Action is helping with this endeavor

Readiness Center

Saron is partnering with the Readiness Center as part of Project Fortify and Fly. Here are some opportunities for working with this ministry.

+++July 8-26: Non-Violence through the Arts
Volunteers needed 9-Noon, M-F

+++Hands-On projects for smaller groups (up to 10 persons) – let Pastor know if you are interested and we can put a project together

+++General Cleaning or Outdoor Work – If you have time and inclination, they will have a project for us to do. ☺ Again, contact Pastor.

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,000.00+** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sigh-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
04/28/2019	*83*
05/05/2019	*137*
05/12/2019	*122*
05/19/2019	*76*

Dave and Kathie joined Pastor at Synod Assembly

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Help Us
Help Jim
Saron Lutheran Church
is hosting a
Musical Showcase of Choirs
with additional special performances benefiting
Jim Hicks & Family
Wednesday, June 5th, 2019
7:00 PM
Saron Lutheran Church
510 Main Street in St. Joseph
269/983-1273
www.saronlutheran.org
Jim Hicks, a local teacher and member of Saron, is awaiting a kidney transplant. The free-will offering collected at this event will be a blessing towards medical and travel expenses.
Did you know?
The human kidney is approximately 4.5" and weighs only 5 ounces. That's similar to a deck of playing cards.
These little organs pack a huge punch, filtering 200 quarts of blood and removing 2 quarts of waste every day!

Saron 2019
June Volunteer Schedule

	June 2 ***Seventh Sunday of Easter***	***June 9*** ***Day of Pentecost***	***June 16*** ***The Holy Trinity***	***June 23*** ***Second Sunday of Pentecost***	***June 30*** ***Third Sunday of Pentecost***
	9:30	***9:30***	***9:30***	***9:30***	***9:30***
Assisting minister	*Sue Rood*	*Wendy King*	*tbd*	*Eric Standen*	*Bob Kynast*
Reader/ Intinction	Lindsay Gaspari	*Mary Kynast*	*Judi Huff*	*Dan Fortenbacher*	*Matt Bradley*
Ushers	*Dave and Sue Bailey*	*Brad and Marilyn Frey*	*Tyler Cook and Krin Jurgensen*	Keith Stevens and Steve Bell	*Scott and Lindsay Gaspari*
Acolytes	*Mia and Alaina Bradley*	*Brandon and Eric Burrow*	*Grant Gacek*	*Brooke Henderson*	*Molly Becker*
Nursery 1st	*Darlene Kiessel*	*Laura Stark*	*Molly Becker*	*Deb Standen*	*Frieda Williams*
Nursery 2nd	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*
Bldg. close	*Bob and Mary Kynast*	*Brad and Marilyn Frey*	*Jerry and Ruth Stelling*	*Bob Hopkins*	*Dave and Kathie Bradley*
Snacks	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
Flowers	*Deaton anniversary & Dave Bradley birthday*	*Scott & Lindsay Gaspari 8th anniversary*	*Dennis Lundgren from Colleen on Father's Day*	*Liz Happy Lundgren birthday*	*Don and Carol Hafer on their 40th anniversary*
Mowing	*Weekend of June 6-8 Jim Manore*	*Weekend of June 13-15 Ed Brunner*	*Weekend of June 20-22*	*Weekend of June 27-29*	

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message						1 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Devotion/ Breakfast
2 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**3** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**4** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**5** 9:30am Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Benefit for Jim Hicks & family	**6**	**7**	8
9 ***Pentecost*** Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Youth Gathering	**10** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Support Comm. Meeting	**11** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**12** 9:30am Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	**13**	**14**	15
16 ***Holy Trinity*** Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**17** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**18** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**19** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m.Picnic 7:00 p.m. Worship	**20**	**21**	22
23 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**24** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**25** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**26** 9:30am Golden Hammers *Pastor on vacation*	**27** _____	**28** Wedding Rehearsal ----------	29 Wedding ----------
30 ----------						